



Milpitas Office of Emergency Services

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Serving the citizens of Milpitas

READY FOR STORM SEASON?

How can you help?

- Clear areas prone of flooding in your neighborhood. Storm drains, catch basins, creeks. The city is short staffed in DPW; anything you can do to minimize/prevent flooding is encouraged.
- Sandbags – sandbags are available [540 S. Abel St. \(Cracolice Building\)](#) and [1325 E. Calaveras \(Sports Center near football field\)](#). Plan early, bag in advance!
- Report areas for clearing of debris in advance of a storm, if you are unable to clear it.
- Report any power line maintenance issues in advance of storm to PG&E. Any power line emergencies call 911.
- **During storms, report maintenance (non-life threatening) calls to Public Works, 408-586-2600. Emergency calls, 911.**

How to Prepare?

- Do not walk or drive through flooded areas.
- If you need to evacuate your home, turn off utilities, and move to higher ground. *Do not stand in water or have wet hands when turning off electricity.*
- Prepare your home just as you would an earthquake – food/water rations, personal supplies, flashlights/batteries, fill your gas tank in advance of storm and if you flood – head to east side of town (that would be the hills).
- If you are looking for flood insurance, it takes 30 days to take effect. Those in designated flood zones are required to carry flood insurance.
- **For more information, you can go to ValleyWater.org. For flood alerts, text “water” to 844-44.**

The best help you can be to the city, your neighborhood and yourself during storm season is to BE PROACTIVE, be the eyes and ears of your neighborhood. Report in advance! Do not wait till the storm hits or it becomes an emergency. For more information, go to the City’s [Facebook](#) page, [City of Milpitas, City Government](#), and see updates during the storm season.

For more information, contact Toni Charlop, OES Coordinator (Acting), at 408-586-2801.



SAND BAG INSTRUCTIONS

HOW CAN I FIGURE OUT HOW MANY SANDBAGS I NEED?

It takes an average of 600 sandbags to cover a 100 foot section, 1-foot high.

HOW FULL SHOULD THE BAG BE FILLED?

Bags should be filled between one-third (1/3) to one-half (1/2) of their capacity. This keeps the bag from getting too heavy, and permits the bags to be stacked with a good seal.

SHOULD I TIE THE SANDBAGS OFF?

Untied sandbags are recommended for most situations. Tied sandbags should be used only for special situations when pre-filling and stockpiling may be required.

WHAT IS THE HEIGHT LIMIT TO STACK SANDBAGS SAFELY?

Limit placement to three layers, unless a building is used as a backing or sandbags are placed in a pyramid.

HOW DO YOU STACK SANDBAGS?

- Fold top of sandbag down and rest bag on its folded top (preferably untied so it will lay flat).
- Take care in stacking sandbags. It is important to place the bags with the folded top of the bag in the upstream or uphill direction to prevent the bags from opening when water runs by them.
- Tamp each sandbag into place, completing each layer prior to starting the next layer.
Clear a path between buildings for debris flow.
- Lay a plastic sheet in between the building and the bags to control the flow and prevent water from seeping into sliding glass doors.
- Limit placement to three layers, unless a building is used as a backing or sandbags are placed in a pyramid.

HOW DO YOU DISPOSE OF SANDBAGS AFTER THEIR USE?

Homeowners should empty the material in the bags in their gardens or yards, and then throw the bags in the trash. Before disposing of used sandbags, check for contamination. Sandbags exposed to contaminated floodwaters may pose an environmental hazard and require special handling.

SANDBAG LIMITATIONS

- Sandbags will not seal out water.
- Sandbags deteriorate when exposed for several months to continued wetting and drying. If bags are placed too early, they may not be effective when needed.
- Sandbags are basically for low-flow protection (up to two feet). Protection from high flow requires a permanent type of structure.
- Sandbags are not always an effective measure in the event of flooding because water will eventually seep through the bags and finer materials like clay may leak out through the seams.

SANDBAG DON'Ts . . .

- Sandbags should never be used to build a fortress around the perimeter of one's property. Doing so can actually trap flood-waters between sandbag walls and structures, leading to further damage.
- Do not use garbage bags, as they are too slick to stack. Do not use feed sacks, as they are too large to handle

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